August 19, 2009

Re: San Luis Valley and Calumet Comanche transmission line.

TRI –STATE is seeking funding from the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service to construct transmission lines. One of the reasons is to construct an outlet for renewable energy generation in the San Luis Valley.

As a taxpayer I would for once, given that this is part of a renewable energy project would request that the RUS demand that these lines be reliable and environmentally friendly. There seems to be absolutely no consideration of using cutting edge technology such as 230kV and 345kV underground cable. Underground cable would solve a host of problems including weather related outages and the hazards that these overhead lines expose wildlife to as well as eliminating a visual blight on the landscape in an economically depressed county of which one of the few assets that exist is the scenic beauty of the area.

I-057-001

Jytte Hale-Helps
210 West Grand
La Veta CO 81055

Jytte Hale-Helps

See attached.

I-057-001: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY-CALUMET-COMANCHE TRANSMISSION LINE

Agency: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

Action: The Rural Utilities Service intends to hold public scoping meetings prepare and environmental assessment (EA) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 7 CFR Part 1794 in connection with potential impacts related to a proposed project in Colorado by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) and Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service), and Xcel Energy Operating Company. The proposed San Luis Valley–Calumet–Comanche Transmission Project (proposed action) consists of the following: a proposed 230/345-kilovolt (kV) Calumet Substation to be located approximately 6 miles north of the existing Walsenburg Substation in Huerfano County; a proposed double-circuit 230-kV transmission line between the existing San Luis Valley Substation in Alamosa County and the Calumet Substation; a proposed single-circuit 230-kV transmission line between the Calumet Substation and the Walsenburg Substation; and a proposed double-circuit 345-kV transmission line connecting the Calumet Substation to the existing Comanche Substation in Pueblo County.

PUBLIC MEETING DATES: RUS will conduct public scoping meetings in an open house format to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The scoping meetings will be held on the following dates: Monday, August 17, 2009, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at the Blanca/Fort Garland Community Center, 17591 Highway 160, Blanca, Colorado, 81123; Tuesday, August 18, 2009, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at the Alamosa Recreation Center, 2222 Old Sanford Road, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101; Wednesday August 19, 2009 from 9:00a.m.–11:00 a.m. at the Gardner Community Center, 28 County Road 632, Gardner, Colorado, 81040; Wednesday, August 19, 2009, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Walsenburg Community Center, 928 Russell Avenue, Walsenburg, Colorado, 81089-2155; Thursday, August 20, 2009, from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the Hollydot Golf Course, 55 North Parkway Drive, Colorado City, Colorado, 81019; and Thursday, August 20, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado, 81003. All written questions and comments must be received by RUS by September 21, 2009.

CONTACT: To send comment or for further information, contact Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development Utilities Programs, at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 or email Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

DOCUMENTS: A combined Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro Corridor Study (MCS) has been prepared for the San Luis Valley to Walsenburg portion of the proposed project, and an AES and MCS have been prepared for the Calumet to Comanche portion of the proposed project. All documents are available for public review prior to and at the public scoping meetings. The reports are available at the RUS address provided in this notice and on the agency's website: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm.
The documents are also available for review at the offices of Tri-State and its member cooperatives San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and San Isabel Electric Cooperative. The locations of additional repositories are listed on the RUS website.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose for the proposed action is to improve the electric service and increase reliability for Tri-State and Public Service customers in the San Luis Valley and Front Range areas. The proposed action would also provide a transmission outlet for renewable energy generation in the San Luis Valley. This proposed action will assist Tri-State and Public Service in meeting their respective transmission needs in the region by using one common transmission corridor instead of two separate corridors. This joint approach will minimize potential impacts to property owners and the environment.

Tri-State is seeking financing from RUS for its percent ownership in the proposed project. Prior to making a financial decision about whether to provide financial assistance for a proposed project, RUS is required to conduct an environmental review under the NEPA in accordance with the RUS policies and procedures codified in 7 CFR Part 1794. Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed action. Representatives from the RUS, Tri-State, and Public Service will be available at the scoping meetings to discuss the environmental review process, describe the proposed action, discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept comments.

RUS will use comments and input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the EA. If RUS finds, based on the EA, that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, RUS will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Upon authorization of RUS, the applicant will have a notice published that informs the public of the RUS finding and the availability of the EA and FONSI. The notice will be prepared and published in accordance with RUS guidance. RUS may take its final action on proposed actions requiring an EA (§1794.23) any time after publication of applicant notices that a FONSI has been made and any required review period has expired. When substantive comments are received on the EA, RUS may provide an additional period (15 days) for public review following the publication of its FONSI determination. Final action will not be taken until this review period has expired. Where appropriate to carry out the purposes of NEPA, RUS may impose, on a case-by-case basis, additional requirements associated with the preparation of an EA.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed action will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794).

Publish: August 6, August 13, 2009

> > > First 345 kV XLPE Underground Cable Reference in the U.S. for Brugg Cables

First 345 kV XLPE Underground Cable Reference in the U.S. for Brugg Cables

Oct 12, 2006 4:48 PM

Brugg Cables, from Switzerland, announced the successful commissioning of their first 345-kV XLPE underground cable installation in the United States. Earlier this year the new system was provided to NSTAR, the electric and gas utility serving customers in the Boston, MA area and Eastern Massachusetts. This connection is part of the larger NSTAR 345-kV Transmission Reliability Project designed to enhance the region's electrical capabilities. The 345-kV XLPE system consists of two circuits between newly installed 345-kV transformers and reactors and 12 terminations installed at the K Street Substation in South Boston. An XLPE cable solution for these tie lines was chosen because of space limitations and the urban location of the substation.

The 345-kV XLPE cable was produced at Brugg's facilities located in Brugg, Switzerland approximately 20 miles northwest of Zurich. The cable is designed for a continuous transmission load of 600 MVA per circuit and was supplied with a copper corrugated sheath for added strength and flexibility. The cable was laid in PE conduits and protected by a concrete cap above. The installation was done by Mass. Electric Construction Co. under the supervision of Brugg Cables.

The importance of this installation to the overall 345-kV Transmission Reliability Project required special attention to long- term reliability aspects of the cable system. For instance, in order to provide additional system protection, each of the 12 terminations was equipped with a newly developed partial discharge (PD) sensor based on UHF technology. These sensors allow the system operator to monitor and assess the condition of the terminations at any time and thus allow him to make decisions well in advance of any problems that may occur during operation.

"We are proud that we were selected by NSTAR as the supplier for this challengingproject,"said Frank Tomczyk, Brugg Cables LLC, National Sales Manager for the U.S. market located in Rome (GA). "Providing a proven, reliable and environmentally friendly cable solution together with highest quality accessories for this important project will further encourage U.S. utilities to specify XLPE underground cable for their future EHV requirements."